

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S POST

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BREMER

1. FOLLOWING IS WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL IN THURSDAY,
JULY 10 PAPER:

2. BEGIN TEXT: JUDGING FROM WHAT WE HAVE READ AND THE
COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD, THERE ARE NUMEROUS EXTENUATING--OR
AT LEAST COMPLICATING--ARGUMENTS THAT CAN BE MADE CONCERN-
ING THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER'S FORAY INTO MR. AND MRS. HENRY
KISSINGER'S TRASH. EVIDENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, QUOTE EVERYBODY
DOES IT UNQUOTE: JACK ANDERSON IS KNOWN TO HAVE GLEANED
SOME OF THE COLUMNS THAT HAVE RUN IN THIS PAPER FROM A
RIFFLE THROUGH THE LATE J. EDGAR HOOVER'S TRASH; THE F.B.I.
(UNDER J. EDGAR HOOVER) IS KNOWN TO HAVE DONE ITS SHARE OF
RIFFLING THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE'S TRASH; AND WE COULDN'T
GUARANTEE THAT OVER THE YEARS SOME REPORTER FOR THIS NEWS-
PAPER MAY NOT HAVE DONE THE SAME. EVIDENTLY, TOO, YOU CAN
GET LOST IN A WHOLE LOT OF LEGAL QUESTIONS, WHICH WE
GATHER HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF THE SCAVENGERS: TRASH
PUT OUT FOR COLLECTION SEEMS TO BE OWNED BY NO ONE AND TO
BE FAIR GAME FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO APPROPRIATE IT.
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AND--IF NONE OF THESE COMPLEXITIES IS SUFFICIENT TO MUDDY

THE ISSUE--IT IS POSSIBLE TO EMBARK ON A SERIES OF META-
PHYSICAL JOURNEYS: HOW IS THIS TECHNIQUE DIFFERENT, AFTER

ALL, FROM VARIOUS OTHER HEISTS AND JOURNALISTIC APPROPRIATIONS OF MATERIAL PEOPLE DO NOT CONSIDER IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN? IS IT NOT TRUE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS A QUOTE RIGHT TO TO KNOW UNQUOTE ALL MANNER OF DETAIL ABOUT THE LIVES OF PUBLIC FIGURES? AND ON AND ON . . .

3. YOU WILL HAVE PERCEIVED BY NOW THAT WE REGARD THESE INTELLECTUAL EXERCISES AS BEING, WELL, SO MUCH GARBAGE. FOR ALL WE KNOW THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH THE CONTENTS OF THE KISSINGERS' TRASH BAGS MAY BE INHERENT IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT. BUT SUCH ARGUMENTS DO NOT CLARIFY THE POINT; THEY OBSCURE IT. FOR THE POINT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, QUOTE SIMPLY IS THAT THE ENQUIRER'S EXERCISE IN TRASH-PICKING OUTSIDE THE KISSINGER HOME WAS INDEFENSIBLE--BOTH AS JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE AND AS CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR.

4. IT IS A QUESTION FIRST OF ALL OF THE WAY DECENT PEOPLE BEHAVE IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER, A QUESTION OF HOW WE PERMIT ONE ANOTHER TO LIVE. THERE ARE CERTAIN BASIC CONDITIONS, CERTAIN VULNERABILITIES, TO ALL OUR LIVES--

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FIGURES ALIKE--THAT WE MUST BE ABLE TO ASSUME OTHERS WILL NOT TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF. WHAT JAY GOURLEY OF THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER DID IS THE MORAL AND PROFESSIONAL EQUIVALENT OF, LET US SAY, INTERVIEWING THE SIX-YEAR-OLD CHILD OF A PUBLIC FIGURE BY WAY OF ACQUIRING SOME PRIVATE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT FIGURE, OR POSING AS A DOCTOR IN THE PRESENCE OF A SICK AND HELPLESS

PUBLIC FIGURE IN ORDER TO PICK UP SOME QUOTE INTIMATE UNQUOTE MATERIAL ABOUT HIM. THAT THESE UNACCEPTABLE TECHNIQUES BEAR SOME RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER QUOTE BORDERLINE UNQUOTE TECHNIQUES OF JOURNALISM DOES NOT SEEM TO US IN ANY WAY TO JUSTIFY THEM. WE WILL BE FRANK TO SAY THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, IT MERELY SUGGESTS TO US THAT THOSE OTHER TECHNIQUES--TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN UNSUSPECTING VICTIM--ARE THEMSELVES OF DUBIOUS VALUE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPRIETY.

5. BUT ON ANY SCALE OF JOURNALISTIC PRACTICE, WE WOULD SAY THAT TRASH-PICKING BELONGS AT THE BOTTOM. MR. GOURLEY'S QUOTE GLEANINGS, UNQUOTE FOR INSTANCE, AS REPORTED IN THIS NEWSPAPER, PURPORTEDLY REVEALED THAT QUOTE EITHER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER OR HIS WIFE, NANCY, SMOKES MARLBORO CIGARETTES, USES PATENT MEDICINES AND OCCASIONALLY THROWS AWAY THE NEW YORK TIMES UNOPENED. UNQUOTE ONE COULD AS READILY CONCLUDE FROM THE EVIDENCE

THAT ONE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SMOKES MARLBOROS, THAT HIS COOK USES PATENT MEDICINE AND THAT THOSE UNOPENED TIMESES COLLECTED ON HIS DOORSTEP

WHILE HE AND HIS WIFE WERE AWAY LAST WEEK ON A VACATION IN
THE CARIBBEAN, FAITHFULLY READING THE TIMES.

6. SOME SCOOP. END TEXT INGERSOLL

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